



### FACT SHEET

- **Mission:** "helping youth promote safe schools and safe communities"
- **History:** Founded in 1999, CARY celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 2009. CARY is operational with at-risk youth at Austin ISD Alternative Learning Center in 10<sup>th</sup> year; at Bedichek, Dobie, Pearce and Webb in 8<sup>th</sup> year; at Garcia Middle School in 4<sup>th</sup> Year; and 1<sup>st</sup> year at Burnet Middle School. Served Georgetown & Lockhart 3 years; Luling for 8 years.
- **Target Youth:** Focuses exclusively on youth with severe disciplinary issues placed in school disciplinary system at in or out of school suspension, school detention or removed to disciplinary alternative education programs. Average age 13; many have emotional disabilities, limited English proficiency, and low academic performers. 90% are minorities; 65% males; 95% are poor. CARY serves 600 high risk disciplinary students annually.
- **Why Target Troubled Youth?** Research shows that one serious school disciplinary report is most powerful predictor of future criminality according to the Institute for Policy Research at Texas A&M University demonstrates. Another national study shows that 60% of bullies will have one criminal court conviction by age 24; 40% will have three criminal court convictions by age 24.  
  
Jim Kester, formerly Juvenile Justice Specialist with the Governor's Criminal Justice Division stated "these are the kids who need flashing red lights on them; they will surely become juvenile and criminal offenders without intervention"
- **Funding Support:** City of Austin & Travis County Health & Human Services and from Hogg, RGK, Allstate, Trull, Lola Wright, Meadows, A Glimmer of Hope and Jack & Jill of America Foundations. Federal grants from Bureau of Justice Assistance-Community Gun Violence Prevention and Department of Education-Safe and Drug Free Schools through Texas Education Agency. Numerous local donors and contributions.
- **Program:** 12 month program with social cognitive skills training emphasizing violence prevention and positive social skills by CARY Youth Advisors with individual behavioral counseling, parent groups & service learning projects.

**Aggression Replacement Training (ART)** is a "science based program" certified by the National Center for Study and Prevention of Youth Violence.

- **Staff:** Emphasis on MA level staff personnel with social work, psychology or special education focus with 3-5 years experience in mental health, special education and/or correction job settings.
- **Costs:** \$750 for one year comprehensive service. Compare to \$15,000 for one year at Texas State Prison, \$25,000 for one year at Travis County Jail, \$100,000 for one year at Texas Youth Commission.
- **Results:** Eight years of internal and external evaluations of the CARY program show:
  - CARY serves the school's most difficult youngsters who have 4 times as many aggressive, abusive and intimidating school incidents compared to other students in the school disciplinary system. CARY students have more emotional disabilities, limited English proficiencies, and lower academic performance than others.
  - Pre and post tests with students show statistically significant increases in measures for anger management, conflict resolution, self-esteem and social skills. Participants are learning violence prevention skills.
  - Surveys with school administrators, counselors and parents show significant improvements in attitudes, behaviors, and school attendance rates with decreases in anti-social behaviors. Students are demonstrating the desired behaviors to become contributing members of our community.
  - Analysis of serious school incident reports shows statistically significant reductions of 50% in serious school incident reports for students completing the program. This dramatic reduction in serious school incidents is sustainable for a period of 18 months.
  - Future evaluation will measure impact of CARY graduates against a like comparison group of youth with review of arrests, referrals, detentions and adjudications at Travis County Juvenile Court.
- **For More Information:** See [www.councilonatriskyouth.org](http://www.councilonatriskyouth.org) or 512-451-4592.